

Appl. No. 09/724,744
Amdt. Dated 12/19/06
Response to Office action dated 10/18/2006

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-58 are cancelled.

59. (New) A method of facilitating an overall transfer of at least one property interest in a patent asset between first and second parties by way of the web, the method comprising:
- (a) providing an interface by way of a computer system of an intermediary by which at least one of the first and second parties can communicate with the intermediary;
 - (b) receiving identification information from at least one of the first and second parties;
 - (c) obtaining first information concerning the patent asset, wherein the first information includes at least one of a number identifying the patent asset, a filing date, an issue date, expiration information, descriptive information concerning a technical subject matter of the patent asset, product information regarding a product that is within a scope of the patent asset, and market information regarding a market to which the patent asset pertains;
 - (d) verifying at least one aspect of property rights of the first party in the patent asset;
 - (e) performing at least one evaluation, wherein the evaluation relates to at least one of a financial value of the patent asset, a technological scope of the patent asset, a product coverage of the patent asset, a market for products covered by the patent asset, and whether there have been one or more past inquiries concerning the patent asset;
 - (f) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the first party's property rights;
 - (g) transferring the at least some of the first party's property rights to the intermediary based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f), whereby the at least some of the first party's property rights become property rights of the intermediary;
 - (h) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the intermediary's property rights; and
 - (i) transfer ring the at least some of the intermediary's property rights to the second party based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h).

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60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein each of the first and second parties is a corporate entity, and wherein the patent asset includes at least one of a patent and a pending patent application.

61. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the at least one aspect that is verified in (d) is selected from the group consisting of an ownership status and a validity status of the patent asset.

62. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the conditions for transfer in (f) include one or more of a price, a royalty rate, another payment indication, and a condition identifying which of the first party's property rights are to be transferred, and

wherein the conditions for transfer in (h) include one or more of a price, a royalty rate, another payment indication, and a condition identifying which of the intermediary's property rights are to be transferred.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the at least some of the first party's property rights that are transferred include at least one of a full assignment and a first license, and wherein the at least some of the intermediary's property rights that are transferred include at least one of a full assignment, the first license and a second license, and wherein each assignment or license includes a respective set of associated property rights.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein each license is selected from the group consisting of an exclusive license, a nonexclusive license, a license of limited duration in time, a license that is limited to a geographical region, a license in which there are limitations on sublicensing, a license in which sublicensing is authorized, a sublicense, and a license including a field of use restriction.

65. (New) The method of claim 59, further comprising:
prior to (f), obtaining additional information regarding an extent of the first party's patent rights that the first party is interested in transferring to the intermediary; or,
prior to (h), obtaining further information regarding an extent of the intermediary's patent rights that the second party is interested in having transferred from the intermediary.

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66. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the interface includes at least one field for receiving input information, wherein at least a portion of one or more of the identification information, the first information, the conditions for transfer in (f), the conditions for transfer in (h), the agreement of (g), or the agreement of (i) is received by way of the at least one field of the interface via an internet-type network.

67. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the computer system of the intermediary includes a server capable of hosting a website, and wherein the website hosted by the server is capable of providing a plurality of web pages that form at least a portion of the interface.

68. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein at least a portion of one or more of the identification information, the first information, the conditions for transfer in (f), the conditions for transfer in (h), the agreement of (g), or the agreement of (i) is obtained by the intermediary by at least one of prompting a user to answer a question, providing a selectable item, and providing an open entry space into which the user can provide a submission, or

wherein the intermediary receives username and password information from the first and second parties by way of the interface.

69. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the intermediary is an investment bank for which facilitating intellectual property transfers is a primary business purpose.

70. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein at least one of following is performed automatically by way of the computer system of the intermediary: the verifying of the at least one aspect of the property rights; the evaluation; preparing of the agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f); and preparing of the agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h).

71. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein at least some of (a)-(h) are performed by at least one human being.

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72. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the evaluation is performed at least in part by an employee of the intermediary, and wherein the intermediary is in communication with at least one of the first and second parties by way of at least one email message.

73. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the intermediary interacts with an exchange entity to at least one of browse or retrieve information from the exchange entity or to place or respond to a bid communicated via the exchange entity.

74. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein the computer system of the intermediary is in communication with an additional computer system of the exchange entity, and wherein the computer system of the intermediary employs software facilitating interactions with the additional computer system of the exchange entity.

75. (New) The method of claim 59, further comprising at least one of:

- (i) comparing at least one of the technological scope of the patent asset, the product coverage of the patent asset, and the market for products covered by the patent asset with additional information received from a plurality of parties concerning needs of those parties relating to patent rights;
- (ii) comparing a first description of a need of at least one additional party relating to patent rights with further information received from a plurality of further parties concerning patent assets available for transfer from those parties; and
- (iii) consulting a public or private database to identify an owner of a desired patent asset and, upon identifying the owner, contacting the owner.

76. (New) A method of facilitating an overall transfer of at least one property interest in a patent asset between first and second parties by way of the web, the first and second parties each being a respective corporate entity, the method comprising:

- (a) providing an interface by way of a computer system of an intermediary by which at least one of the first and second parties can communicate with the intermediary;

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- (b) receiving identification information from at least one of the first and second parties by way of at least one of the web, the internet, a mail delivery, a telephone connection and another communication linkage;
- (c) obtaining first information concerning the patent asset, wherein the first information includes at least one of a number identifying the patent asset, a filing date, an issue date, expiration information, descriptive information concerning a technical subject matter of the patent asset, product information regarding a product that is within a scope of the patent asset, and market information regarding a market to which the patent asset pertains;
- (d) verifying at least one aspect of property rights of the first party in the patent asset, wherein the verifying includes checking an ownership status of the patent asset;
- (e) performing at least one evaluation, wherein the evaluation relates to at least one of a financial value of the patent asset, a technological scope of the patent asset, a product coverage of the patent asset, a market for products covered by the patent asset, and whether there have been one or more past inquiries concerning the patent asset, the evaluation being performed at least in part by an employee of the intermediary;
- (f) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the first party's property rights;
- (g) transferring the at least some of the first party's property rights to the intermediary based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f), whereby the at least some of the first party's property rights become property rights of the intermediary;
- (h) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the intermediary's property rights; and
- (i) transferring the at least some of the intermediary's property rights to the second party based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h).

77. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the intermediary is an investment bank for which facilitating intellectual property transfers is a primary business purpose, wherein at least some of (a)-(i) in addition to (e) are performed by at least one human being, and wherein the conditions for transfer in (f) include a requirement that either an assignment of the patent asset or a license to the patent asset be transferred.

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78. (New) A method of facilitating an overall transfer of at least one property interest in a patent asset between first and second parties by way of the web, the first and second parties each being a respective corporate entity, the method comprising:

- (a) providing an interface by way of a computer system of an intermediary by which at least one of the first and second parties can communicate with the intermediary;
- (b) receiving identification information from at least one of the first and second parties;
- (c) obtaining first information concerning the patent asset, wherein the first information includes at least one of a number identifying the patent asset, a filing date, an issue date, expiration information, descriptive information concerning a technical subject matter of the patent asset, product information regarding a product that is within a scope of the patent asset, and market information regarding a market to which the patent asset pertains;
- (d) verifying at least one aspect of property rights of the first party in the patent asset;
- (e) performing at least one evaluation, wherein the evaluation relates to at least one of a financial value of the patent asset, a technological scope of the patent asset, a product coverage of the patent asset, a market for products covered by the patent asset, and whether there have been one or more past inquiries concerning the patent asset;
- (f) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the first party's property rights;
- (g) transferring the at least some of the first party's property rights to the intermediary based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f), whereby the at least some of the first party's property rights become property rights of the intermediary;
- (h) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the intermediary's property rights; and
- (i) transferring the at least some of the intermediary's property rights to the second party based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h),

wherein the transferring in one or both of (g) and (i) occurs by way of an additional exchange entity with which the intermediary interacts, and wherein at least one of (a)-(i) is performed at least in part by way of an employee of the intermediary.